

Amendments to the Specification

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 9, as follows:

Those of skill in the art and others will recognize that the materials, structure, and dimensions of the guidewire 10, and the components thereof, are dictated primary by the desired characteristics and function of the final guidewire 10. For example, the materials, structure, and dimensions of the core member 14, the coil member 12, the distal structure 58, the attachment structure 65, and any other components or structures used can vary widely, depending for example upon the desired characteristics and function of the final guidewire 10. Additionally, alternative constructions, for example tip constructions are also contemplated. For example, rather than including a coil member 12, the guidewire may include a polymer tip construction, or a combination of a polymer tip and a coiled tip, or other such constructions. Additionally, the guidewire may also include additional structures or assemblies, as desired, to achieve particular properties or characteristics. For example, the guidewire may include one or more radiopaque marker members, such as bands or coil, one or more additional coils or centering members, extension assemblies or structures, or the like, or other structures that can be incorporated into the construction of the device 10. Some example embodiments of materials, structure, dimensions and alternative constructions that may be used in guidewires are disclosed in U.S. Patent Application Nos. 09/972,276 ~~entitled "GUIDEWIRE WITH STIFFNESS BLENDING CONNECTION"~~ filed on October 5, 2001, now U.S. Patent No. 6,918,882; 10/086,992 ~~entitled "COMPOSITE GUIDEWIRE"~~ filed on February 28, 2002, now U.S. Patent No. 7,074,197; 10/375,766 ~~entitled "COMPOSITE MEDICAL DEVICE"~~ filed on February 26, 2003, now U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0167441; and 10/376,068 ~~entitled "ELONGATED INTRACORPORAL MEDICAL DEVICE"~~ filed on February 26, 2003, now U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0167442, all of which are incorporated herein by reference.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 24 as follows:

In embodiments where different portions of core member 14 are made of different material, the different portions can be connected using any suitable connecting techniques. For example, the different portions of the core wire can be connected using welding (including laser welding), soldering, brazing, adhesive, or the like, or combinations thereof. Additionally, some embodiments can include one or more mechanical connectors or connector assemblies to connect the different portions of the core wire that are made of different materials. The connector may include any structure generally suitable for connecting portions of a guidewire. One example of a suitable structure includes a structure such as a hypotube or a coiled wire which has an inside diameter sized appropriately to receive and connect to the ends of the proximal portion and the distal portion. Some other examples of suitable techniques and structures that can be used to interconnect different shaft sections are disclosed in U.S. Patent Application Nos. 09/972,276 ~~entitled "GUIDEWIRE WITH STIFFNESS BLENDING CONNECTION"~~ filed on October 5, 2001, now U.S. Patent No. 6,918,882; 10/086,992 ~~entitled "COMPOSITE GUIDEWIRE"~~ filed on February 28, 2002, now U.S. Patent No. 7,074,197; 10/375,766 ~~entitled "COMPOSITE MEDICAL DEVICE"~~ filed on February 26, 2003, now U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0167441; and 10/376,068 ~~entitled "ELONGATED INTRACORPORAL MEDICAL DEVICE"~~ filed on February 26, 2003, now U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0167442, all of which are incorporated herein by reference.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 14, line 25, as follows:

The centering ring 65 can be disposed about the core member 14 in any of a broad variety of configurations. In the particular embodiment shown, the centering ring 65 ~~64~~ can extend about a portion of the distal section 18. It should be understood, however, that this configuration is given by way of example only, and that the centering ring 65 ~~64~~ can be disposed at different locations, as desired, without parting from the spirit and scope of the invention.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 12, line 22, as follows:

The coil member 12 can be disposed about the core member in any of a broad variety of configurations. In the particular embodiment shown, the coil member 12 can extend about a portion of the distal section 18 from a point adjacent the tapering region 37 distally to a point distal of the distal most portion of the core member 14. The coil member 12 is attached to the distal core wire section 18 at its proximal end 41 at one or more attachment areas, ~~for example attachment areas 20,~~ using a suitable attachment technique, including, for example, soldering, welding, heat crimping, adhesive, mechanical bonding or fitting, or combinations thereof, or the like. The distal end 45 of the coil member 12 can be attached to a tip portion, for example, a rounded tip portion 49. The rounded tip portion 49 can be made of any suitable material, for example a solder tip, a polymer tip, a metal and/or metal alloy tip, or combinations thereof, or the like. Attachment to the tip portion 49 can be made using any suitable technique, including, for example, soldering, welding, heat crimping, adhesive, mechanical bonding or fitting, or combinations thereof, or the like. It should be understood, however, that these attachment areas are given by way of example only, and that the coil member 12 can be attached at different locations and by using more or fewer attachment areas, as desired, without parting from the spirit and scope of the invention.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 19, line 8, as follows:

Referring to Figure 6, the fixture 90 may include ~~[[a]] two parts, such as a first portion 96 and a second portion 97,~~ that when put together define a lumen 91 that is adapted and/or configured to maintain the desired relative positions of the attachment member 65, core member 14, and ribbon 58. The lumen 91 includes a first portion 92, a second portion 93, and a third portion 94. The first portion is adapted and/or configured to accept a portion of the core member 14 and ribbon 58, which may be advanced therein. The second portion 93 is adapted to accept the centering ring 65, and maintain the centering ring 65 at a desired position relative to the core member 14 and the ribbon. The third portion 94 is tapered outwardly, in a funnel like shape, and is adapted and/or configured such that the core member 14, ribbon 58, and/or the centering ring 65 may be advanced to desired positions within the fixture 90.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 15, line 13, as follows:

The ribbon 58 includes a widened and/or expanded region or portion 60. In the embodiment shown the expanded portion 60 is disposed adjacent the proximal region 63 of the ribbon 58, however, in other embodiments, the widened portion 60 can be disposed at other locations along the length of the ribbon 58. The expanded portion 60 can be a portion of the ribbon 58 that includes at least one dimension along the outer perimeter thereof that is greater than ~~that~~ the same dimension of other portions of the ribbon 58. For example, the expanded portion 60 may include a width, thickness, height, diameter, radius, or other such dimension that is greater than the same dimension of an adjacent portion of the ribbon 58. In another respect, the expanded or widened portion 60 of the ribbon 58 can include at least a part thereof that includes an outer surface that extends a further distance away from the central longitudinal axis of the ribbon 58 than an adjacent portion of the ribbon 58. For example, the widened portion 60 may include a dimple, a bifurcation, one or more twists, a widening, a head, or additional material or structure added thereto that created a dimensional change in the outer surface of the ribbon 58. As such, another portion of the ribbon 58, such as the distal region 61, may have an outer perimeter that is adapted and/or configured to fit within or extend through a space of predetermined size and shape, for example space 71, while the widened and/or expanded portion 60 of the ribbon 58 can be adapted and/or configured such that it cannot fit within or extend through the same space. The widened portion can be adapted and/or configured to engage the attachment member 65 and/or the core member 14 and can be used in coupling the ribbon 58 to the core member 14, as will be discussed in more detail below.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 20, line 9, as follows:

In some embodiments, the creation of such a mechanical coupling or bond using such methods or techniques may have certain advantages. For example, in some embodiments, such a mechanical coupling or bond can aid in ensuring that there is a snug fit between the components. For example, without the use the mechanical coupling or bond discussed above, it can be difficult to ensure that there is a snug fit between the parts to provide for a good bond using other attachment techniques. For example, if there is too ~~[[to]]~~ much space between the ribbon 58 and the core member 14, it may be difficult to achieve a good bond using additional attachment techniques such as a weld, braze, solder, crimp, adhesive, or other type of bond. However, the use of the widened portion 60 on the ribbon 58, as disclosed herein, ensures that there will be a snug fit, and may provide for a better bond.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 21, line 18, as follows:

As indicated above, an additional attachment technique can be used to enhance the mechanical coupling or bond, or to further connect the components. Some examples of suitable attachment techniques include welding (e.g., resistance, TIG, friction, plasma, LASER, electron beam, or the like), soldered (e.g. radiant heat, LASER diode, or the like), brazing, the use of an expandable alloy (e.g. an expandable bismuth alloy, or the like), adhesive bonding, crimping, or the like, or other suitable technique, depending somewhat upon the material selected for each component, and the desired connection characteristics. Some examples of methods, techniques and structures that can be used to interconnect different portions of a guidewire are disclosed in U.S. Patent Application Nos. 09/972,276 ~~entitled "GUIDEWIRE WITH STIFFNESS BLENDING CONNECTION" filed on October 5, 2001, now U.S. Patent No. 6,918,882; 10/086,992 entitled "COMPOSITE GUIDEWIRE" filed on February 28, 2002, now U.S. Patent No. 7,074,197; 10/375,766 entitled "COMPOSITE MEDICAL DEVICE" filed on February 26, 2003, now U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0167441; and 10/376,068 entitled "ELONGATED INTRACORPORAL MEDICAL DEVICE" filed on February 26, 2003, now U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0167442~~, all of which are incorporated herein by reference.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 28, line 26, as follows:

This embodiment also illustrates the use of a polymer tip construction in that rather than an outer coil member, such as coil member 12, a polymer sleeve 112 is used. However, it should be understood that a coil member, such as coil member 12, may be used in this construction, or a polymer tip construction, such as polymer sleeve 112, may be used in the other embodiments disclosed herein. It should be understood that in some other embodiments, different tip configurations can be used. For example, some embodiments can include a combination of a flexible coil tip and/or polymer jacket tip. Some examples of additional components and tip constructions are disclosed in U.S. Patent Application Nos. 09/972,276 entitled "GUIDEWIRE WITH STIFFNESS BLENDING CONNECTION" filed on October 5, 2001, now U.S. Patent No. 6,918,882; 10/086,992 ~~entitled "COMPOSITE GUIDEWIRE"~~ ~~filed on February 28, 2002, now U.S. Patent No. 7,074,197;~~ 10/375,766 ~~entitled "COMPOSITE MEDICAL DEVICE"~~ ~~filed on February 26, 2003, now U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0167441;~~ and 10/376,068 ~~entitled "ELONGATED INTRACORPORAL MEDICAL DEVICE"~~ ~~filed on February 26, 2003, now U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0167442,~~ all of which are incorporated herein by reference.